

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

ITOH, T.

Atty. Ref.: 160-397

Serial No. to be assigned

Group: Unknown

Filed: November 18, 2003

Examiner: Unknown

For: LOADING-ASSISTING APPARATUS FOR USE WITH CENTRIFUGE

* * * * *

November 18, 2003

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

As suggested by 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office, the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449, a copy of each of which is enclosed. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists, or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

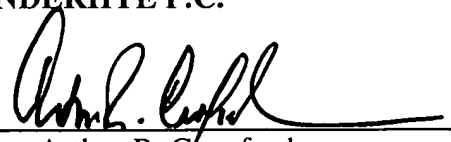
JP 6-320052 and JP 2002-273271 are discussed on page 2 of the specification.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


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Form PTO-FB-A820 (Also PTO-1449)